## Classes In Maryland Prison Are Reclaiming Men Who Were Formerly Illiterates, Says J. Barton Miller

## Washingtonian Praises Educational Plan of Helping Convicts To "Come Back."

J. Barton Miller, a former Washington lawyer and business man, was convicted of embezzlement of funds of the First Co-Operative Building Association of Georgetown, of which he was secretary-treasurer. He was sentenced to twenty years in the Maryland penitentiary and began his term in December, 1913.

As soon as he entered the penitentiary Miller became interested in the Intra-Mural school which had just been started and in a short time was made superintendent. Recently the Baltimore grand jury made an inspection of the penitentiary and Miller's work became a subject of special inquiry. The school system was considered so unusual and had achieved such remarkable results that the prison rule was broken and permission given Miller to publish under his own name the article herewith describing the school and its effect.

By J. BARTON MILLER.

When one wishes to get the trend of another's mind he watches his unguarded utterances. It is through language that "prisoned thoughts are released." He who said, "Language was invented to conceal thought," must have been a diplomat.

The men who are groping for mental light in the Intra-mural school are too little acquainted with word-subtlety to fall into the insincerities of diplomacy.

The work of the men in the school for illiterates at the Maryland penitentiary has elicited editorial commendation. Trained educators concede astonishing results. Evidences of progress, as exhibited in penmanship specimens, and general written and oral declarations, have lured the mentally elect to its sessions.

But, those qualities which make for good citizenship may not develop correspondingly with penmanship. Has the school touched the deeper spring of the men's spiritual natures? If so, its influence should be observable in speech not directly related to assigned lessons, and in conduct inspired by logical thought. Are these men through this school's influence making a successful effort to fit themselves to enjoy those blessings organized society offers all her, advocates?

#### NEVER HAD A CHANCE.

Remember many of them have never belts on it to keep it from runnin' bad a chance. They are in prison because they didn't think—didn't know how to think. Impulse, not mind, has cause they didn't think-didn't know dictated physical action. They have never before been governed by neht standards-lu

Out of eighty new men-total illiter ates-brought into the class room last September, citizens of the sovereign

school in repeating the fancled and historical incidents presented.

ing a well-period letter home in three months carrying this thought:

Every line I write you tonight is a stroke from the heart."

For a hundred years in Maryland's penal institutions, total illiterates had they are voicing thought-real Crude it is in expression, often, but therein lies its Their sensences are true photographs of ineer consciousness. Long acquaintance with an old thought may suggest equivocation, but one handles gingerly, the new.

### Great Moral Change.

of his new and they average a thousand with ever recurring changes in the personnel. He knows their very minds, not just their record numbers. The writer speaks from the vantage point of school superintendent, inmate succe-

intendent.
When Lincoln wished to illustrate point he told a story. Here it is de-signed to let be men exhibit, uncon-sciously, their attitude toward knowledge in a series of spontaneous utter-ances. "As a man speaks, so is he."

The Intra-mural cannot educate a man. Its chief alm is to take help-

when men understand, lives will not be dissabled—men will seek the better things, and know them when they're found.

Not long are when the word "postraint" was encountered in the reading leasion it was defined by the teacher, and its moral value commented blue, "was suggested.

"East'n sho" hoys—they are all called boys—appeared in class with a leather boys—appeared in class of skin disease—an immediate relief to the tich, a calm to excited in the class of skin disease—an immediate relief to the tich, a calm to excited the line, a strength to the general system."

Dr. Unna Holmes—D. D. D. D. and the disease—an immediate relief to the tich, a calm to excite a powerful relief to the itch, a calm to excite powers, soft soothing, yet a powerful relief to the itch, a calm to excite powe

## Held For Manslaughter.

fined for manslaughter. Symbols have of gold has preserved the morality of through persistent violations. On nations. His leather band will help day his "short time" was up, a weath beaten stalwart man from Martins.

Think of the nossibilities of a school in which a thirty-year-old man defined "poetry" as "chicken," the first night he entered, and smiled in bewilderment when shown his own name written, rend-who understands their yearnings in

been spoken limity of as abnormals. Feet children when they enter, as to all these men who were only undeveloped: that pertains to letters. Simple truths that pertains to letters. Simple truths are at first bewildering. As light breaks in through patient teaching, they bear themselves with pride. The penetration of thought centers awakens an infant ambition, and nightly it grows. Keen, orderly class rivalry stimulates it.

The bad panel a wordy broadside at quer, he landed a wordy broadside at quer, he landed a wordy broadside at in including.

"It's not for you I'm doing this:

You should serve your full term. I'm letting you go solely for your old father's sake. Stick to him—he's the father's sake.

inificance of New Year Day; How it It is maintained that a great moral presented another chance to make good change has come over such men as have an opportunity to clean the state and added. entered the acticol and applied them- begin all over; to do the things which selves to its with. Hopeful atterances, had been left undone; to omit the things imitative effect lightened spirit, are which ought not to be done. For some One whose remarks are not lightly would being that happiness which at- fer made, has characterized the lutra- tends liberty-for all some happiness in mural as "The strangest school in the the knowledge that they were that much It has brought lights into a nearer home—that the Christian world place where formerly there were only had wiped out the countless years which madows. It is comoving the shutters preceded Christ's birth and begun all plishment. from men's souls.

Wasden John F. Leonard is the executive head. No worden in the United reward for the observance of all law. States has ruch intimate knowledge that the best way to be happy is to help make others happy!

There was in the class at the time a pickpocket who had contended that as pocket-picking was his vocation, it was his right to make his living by

Just after the New Year comments his "unmoral" approached a nearby this "unmoral" approached a nearby student and returned an article he had niched from his pocket, saying:

"I couldn't keep it after listening to that speech. "Charlie's" interest is always keenly alive when the lesson involves rhyme or jingle—and he memorizes quickly.

themselves. It must be conceded that when men understand, lives will not be dissipated—men will seek the better things, and know them when they're found.

Not long are when the word "restraint" was encountered in the read-tip leasing it was encountered to youth that bashfulness that's incident to youth in love, he asked for a verse to copy to send to his "girl."

Since I've been in here," he explained, "she has been gittin' away from me, and now as I kin write. I thought a lit-

In the weekly history lecture, the

planting of the first colonfes on Roanoke Island was being described. Beween pauses to enable points to sink in, an old fellow called "Preacher" kept

"You're gettin' there now! Yo' sure gettin' there now!" "Preacher" was finally asked what should be inferred from h's remark. "I means," he declared, eager to explain himself, "I was born down there

at Roanoke, and every word you's say-

ing is gospel fack-every word!" "Nick" had been the center of interest to his classmates on the occasion of the previous lecture, when it was shown that Columbus had landed first on one of the islands of the West Indies, and he ("Nick"), it was known, was from Jamaica.

There must be good in both these men, for their blood tingles at the mention of home.

"Look at their faces," the warden remarked once, as he walked about the class room inspecting individual work. "How animated they are! When I took charge of the meniter timry nearly every man here was a sullen, rebelilous fellow. Ignorance, helplessness, needless restraint made them so. The school has done wonders for them all."

Law Benefits Few.

No Attempt To Improve.

For 100 years the prison had been maintained solely as a place of punish-No attempt was made to improve men. They were returned to so- lowing the illing of an application, and ciety -embittered. First-timers came back in numbers. They had seen no virtue in dominating man, or system. Punishment narrows. warring against system comes only merit, that he threatens to take himsel with the appreciation that "the stars themselves obey a law."

One hundred and ninety men wire nightly in the big school room, with only one officer present. There has One hundred and ninety men wire nightly in the big school room, with only one officer present. There has never been a disturbance—no unnecessary commotion. Only the hum of earnest workers—each class unaffected by the recitations of its neighbor. Endividuality must be reckened with. The by the recitations of its neighbor. En-couragement, kindness, maintain where once physical and spiritual suppression were monitors. There is a verse in one of the books which breathes the spirit

"Speak gently to the erring; know They may have tolled in vain: Pechaps unkindness made them so Oh, win them back again!

den is absolute master, and his authority is jealously guarded. In the maintenance of prison government he is arst in peace, but, likewise first in war, when war is wanted. It need not be added that he always dictates the terms of surrender. The personal equation enters largely into the matter of dominance. Physique, voice, and his knowledge of the workings of prisoners' minds, contribute to the success of his administration. He who "bucks" the warden will lind an untiring antagenist—he who apfind an untiring antagonist—he who ap- his composition, respecting marriage:

A prisoner's "short time ever been respected—revered. The good behavior. A man, not a member of the school, had lost his "good time"

road, and have come all the way from the four winds, breaks the wearying Martinsburg to help him to another chance. It would be hard to go back empty-handed."

Leading to help him to another view. It stands upon an eminence, certainly, for among monuments of masonry, it alone is distinct in form and empty-handed." The father's manner had the heart heighth.

for what I know about writin' now!" | there. When told to write what he knew his tree. They are nursed by it, com-about farm products, all knowledge forted by it, protected by it. In its

**Doctors Now Agree** 

On Eczema Remedy

Confirm the Statements About D. D. D. Prescription

There had been written on the black-

board for penmanship exercise the statement: "The Jordan is the world's most

crooked river, wandering 213 miles to cover sixty."
"Who can tell where the Jordan river is?" was asked preliminarily. ver is?" was asked preliminarily.
"It's in the Bible," ventured one who

ever misses a chapel service. "Yes," it was conceded, "it is spoken of in the Bible, but perhaps a better answer would be, the Jordan river is in the Holy Isand."
All nodded their heads in acceptance.

Then up spoke one cager to release a hought "How far is that from purgatory?"
"Which is the mightier—the pen or
the sword?" was assigned as a composition subject once. One big fellow's
paper presented this answer:

"If a man is a soldier, and a war is going on, I guess the sword is, but-as for me, if it hadn't been for this Maryland pen I sare would-er been dead-cause I was a bad man and they was all after me."

Law Benefits Few.

When the parole law was ,enacte most of the men believed that upon the expiration of one-third of their sen tence freedom could be enjoyed folcompliance with certain requirements

The law has benefited but few. Expansion of is so disgusted with the failure of the lew had been checked. The futility of advisory board of parole to recognize on the expiration of his term beyond the boundaries of Maryland. He says

old dog and the new trick maxim flus-trates the situation in certain stubborn cases. The groping mind wanders over a circuitous path to reach conclusions. Hardly a mind in the intra-mural is in the formative state. The machine is complete in form, but the individual lacks the power to operate it to its cacomplete in form, but the individual lacks the power to operate it to its cametty. It has never produced profit-ibly. Consequently class instruction

Through the Rev. W. D. Besil, the chaplain, class room instruction is augmented by lectures, and the presentation of "Messages" from those specially interested in the uplift of men. The power of music has not been ignored, either, and the prison band is fast becoming an organization of merit. The cornetist is said to be one of the best in the State.

It should not be inferred that discipline is lax in any department of the penitentiary. On the contrary the warden is absolute master, and his authority is jealously guarded. In the maintenance of prison government he is first in and then in their struggle for light and and then in their struggle for light and then in their struggle for light and

moment a man marries a woman some terr ble revolution takes place in her system, and all her good qualities jump out like eggs from a conjurer's box. 'Study hard-

whether George Washington was an American or a steamboat!

Think of Lie men in a room, between twenty and sixty years of age, sprang from one of the most imaginative of races, who had never heard of "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Cinderella" or "Aladdin"." And whee they were test of the special or the special correctly is and divide.

Think of Lie men in a room, between the dialect of home environment probably will distinguish always this man's speech, in less than a year he has beared to spell correctly 159 been bad all through, and I am not going to let him out of his short time," was the statement that greeted him.

Lar, is my motto now, he announces with determination.

The teacher, with twenty years of him overs in common usage, read reasonably well, and add, subtract, multiply, and the Beaustalk," "Cinderella" or "Do yo' think if I study hard and the special speci short with a tree. It is many city blocks be brought here for the trial. Skeletons away and visible only to the raised eye of political closets, of more than a from a certain spot in the prison yard, decade are expected to rattle for the and the Beaustalk," "Cinderella" of "Do yo' think if I study hard and the story of "Jack," and later the first work when I go back?" he has asked with each other for days outside the life is from Cambridge, the governor's school in repeating the faucted and his-"I have found a job for him on the to heaven and spreading its branches to who was linked by Roosevelt with ed to \$25.

who understands their yearnings in sympathetic fullness.

There are phases of a prisoner's mentality inappreciable to the outsider. Complete understanding comes only to the initiated—those who have lived the life. Some of these men are splendid examples of brawn and muscle, but perfect children when they enter, as to all that pertains to letters. Simple truths are at first bewildering. As light breaks in through patient teaching, they bear theoretic examples with pride. The penetration of thought centers awakens an infant ambition, and highly it grows. Keen, orderly class rivalry stimulates it.

Told of New Year Day:

On December 31 last, before the men were dismissed, they were told the significance of New Year Day: How it presented another chance to make good:

The father's manner had the heart amoments height. The father a moment is in it, and after a moment in it, and after a moment in the warden's determination the warden's determination the warden's determination the warden's determination in the fullness of summer its summit and branches are covered with a vast crown of leaves, it seems the growth of each make a wordy broadside at him, including:

When the son appeared, as if to spense the spirit of discipline which he had permitted sympathy to congrue the beginning of the had permitted sympathy to congrue and plightly it grows. Keen, orderly class rivalry stimulates it.

Told of New Year Day:

On December 31 last, before the men were dismissed, they were told the significance of New Year Day: How it presented another chance to make good:

An old black fellow, sixty-six years of age, shook his head a year ago when it was suggested that he enter school.

The father's manner had the heart amoment is the warden's determination. In the fullness of summer its summit and hanches are covered with a vast crown of leaves, it seems the growth of extensive its summit and branches are covered with a vast crown of leaves, it seems the growth of the sight he wast in the incipal.

In the fullness.

In the fullness.

In

Foo far gone down de valley, he his interest. It represents to him the ed

Later, when a letter was written for speaks with thousand tongues, him on request, he teasted his eyes on In midsummer, he wonders whether him on request, he feasted his eyes on the page and eleculated:
"Wonderful! It's wuf a lot of money they were reminded, the New Year would bring that happiness which attends liberty—for all some happiness in the knowledge that they were that much had wived out the countless years would had wived out the countless years within a shool. He can now write a letter, and had wived out the countless years which had wonderful! It's wuf a lot of money the continued, tendering a 5-cent bag of smoking tobacco. This find it as secure a retreat from the hot prison yard has the prison year. The prison yard has the prison years whether the prison yard has the prison year. The prison yard has the prison years whether the prison years and if you will be continued. The continued, tendering a prison year years whether the prison years are prison years. The prison years whether the prison years are prison years and prison years are prison years. he's immensely proud of the accomisis more fortunate than he. Nature has plishment. "Yo' remember," he said recently.
"Then yo' wouldn't take a bag of tobacco fer writin' me a letter! Well, I
wouldn't take the whole 'commissary'
for what I know shout well's and the speculates as to this species flourishing there.

These things are a part of the life of

Will Inspect Monitor.

When he is released he intends to proceed immediately to the inspection of the great monitor. If it rears itself in a rich man's yard he will ring the bell and ask permission to measure its trunk and estimate its heighth. man shall know that tree in the future

better than he.
Standing remote, ever silent to him. towering night and day above the works of man, it typifies vastness, power. It hears no voice, responds to no influence, save the mighty call of the panoramic seasons, manifestations of birth, life's fullness, harvest time, and the deep sleep that precedes the resurrection.

It is not strange to him that primi-tive peoples worshiped trees. Pow-erful beings they thought them, or the seats of divinities. When this man entered prison he was b'tter because of misjudgment. Guilty of no moral wrong, he came wrapped in obloquy, condemned to long servitude. When locked in, and the enormity of his sentence bore in upon him, his lips moved involuntarily in ironic utterance:

"God's in His heaven. All's right with the world!"

ironic utterance:

"Hell-He's too busy watching spar-ows fall to see that justice is admin-

But when he larned the stories he men, saw many daily trudging with to exears ahead, but prison years, no ope in the'r hearts, lacking the power "I will study and get ready—and mayofind diversion in books, nearly 300 be my chance will come." Thank God nable to write their own names, sym- for hope! The clouds in the sky never

birth of hope, the man to man treat-ment, "the square deal," with all its attendant beneficent results.

quences, as the school makes him visibly

future vital importance is, being kept susceptible of expression was contained in these words:

Have Weekly Lectures.

Susceptible of expression was contained foliage birds hold high carnival, and every leaf gossips the news the stray-leaf gossips the ne

And this man thinks now he is doing one of the best works of his life, circumseribed as it is. He sees higher duties in life than his world of business strife presented. When he repeats Browning's lines now there is no touch of hitterness—his tone breathing the spirit of the exulting author:

It is a great privilege to be permitted to direct the class work. There has un-questionably been a reflex influence on the fifteen inmate teachers—bringing out the best within them, and creating new ideals and purposes. Hurts of worldly injustices have been assuaged, bitterness eliminated. One to whom the dearest bave remained faithful in spite of the years, whose mind is empled of the years, whose mind is enabled through literature, to sail the seas of Pact and Fancy has no right to bewail his fate, in the presence of such direct helplessness, and its collateral conse-

Marvel At Changes.

No one who has known from the inside the past and present of the penitentiary, but marvels at the temperamental change the school has effected. There is hope in every man's breast, and preparations are going on to realize it. Abraham Lincoln's ambi-

tious announcement—on one of the blackboards has impressed all:

is always—just before the Dawn!

The strangest school in the world,"
they call it. Perhaps it is. Polack,
Greek, Spaniard; Negro, and white
American—shoulder to shoulder, youth
and old age—staring nightly with wonder's wide eyes at the unfolding of this
new influence—Education!

Two years ago over 30 per cent of the prison population—more than 300 men—were total illiterates. The only illiterates today are the few recent arrivals on the waiting list.

When a man gropes for his soul he is on the path leading to decent citizen-ship. Initiative will help him to find it— the initiative inspired by interest and

If in eighteen months men have been brought from absolute ignorance to the intelligent application of the principles of arithmetic, the writing and creditable composition of letters, and an interest in geography and history that indicates continuous delving, it is a safe conclu-sion that the school is exerting an influence that tends toward future sta-

bility.
Five thousand library books are now in active circulation in the prison! Intra-mural advancement does not cease with the nightly suspension of What of the teachers, in this school within the walls? Hope is leading them upward and on. Listen, Opportunity

They do me wrong who say I come no

When once I knock and fail to find you in.
For every day I stand outside your

door,
And bid you wake, and rise and fight
and win!"

## F. R. AND BARNES PRIMED FOR SUIT

Political History Will Be Written in Action for Libel at Syra-

of politicians drawn here for the trial littical history may be gone into on each William Barnes' \$50,000 libel suit against former President Roosevelt has trial, tomorrow, when new political history will be written, hotel corridors to day had the appearance, in turnoil, of

The chief actors in the political drama ad not yet arrived. Barnes is expected here late today from Albany olonel Roosevelt may not arrive unti omorrow morning, being detained a New York, where Mrs. Roosevelt is in a hospital following an operation. While here the colonel will be the guest of Horace S. Wilkinson.

The stage was all set for prompt be-ginning of the trial at 10 o'clock tomor-lew. In some respects the setting will One of the men whose ideals "scooted" be unique. The tiny Onendaga court-with bachelorhood had this to say in modations for barely 100 persons. But | emergency "bleachers" have been built tators may be squeezed in. Admission will be by card. Outside the courthouse railings were

> entrances. Nation Is Interested.

Today it was evident that politica powers of all three big national par ties not only of New York State but many of nation-wide prominence, would

Barnes as a "boss" and malign influence, would be called if Roosevelt is permitted to delve with a free hand into the alleged political misconduct and working alliance of Barnes and Murphy.

No Special Jury. Veniremen from whom the jury will

be chosen are already here, serving for the regular term of court. A special jury panel for libel cases is not per The trial judge was still in doubt to-He will be either Justice William

S. Andrews or Justice Irving G. Hubbs. The former was a classmate at Harvard of Colone! Roosevelt, and therefore it is considered probable that Justice liubbs will sit. Duration of the trial depends entirely on the judge's ruling of how far po-

side. If the lines are strictly drawn,

attorneys for the plaintiff and defen-

dant stated today the trial could be in shed within four or five days. But if the doors of politics are opened wide, it is believed the trial will take Three G. W. U. Seniors

In Speaking Contest Three seniors of the arts and sciences department of the George Washington University will compete in the annual Davis prize speaking contest to be held. They will hold two meetings, one with

of the Arts and Sciences building, 2023
G street northwest.
The entrants and their themes are:
Miss Ruth Leah Ayler. "The Foint of View." George Wilson Hodgkins. "The Electoral College—its Purpose and Its Electoral College—its Purpose and Its English of Parks Webster Penton Under the Company of Parks Webster Penton Under t Undoing," and Raiph Webster Benton,

Early Morning Blaze Causes Damage of \$500

Fire early today in the grocery store of Joseph Funger, Eighth and H streets northwest, resulted in \$500 damage. Special Officer Groves turned in the

The building is owned by E. L. Muhler. Firemen were upable to learn the origin of the blaze.

Shortly after midnight fire broke out in the store building owned and occupied by Nathan Botnick, at 400 First street southeast. The damage amounted to \$25.

# UNION CARPENTERS

Chicago Strike Has Total of \$70,000,000 in Contemplated Work Tied Up.

CHICAGO, April 18 .- A definite offer from the leaders of the 35,000 building trades union men on strike to arbitrate their differences was refused last night by officers of the Carpenter Contractors' Association. total of 16,000 carpenters are locked

It is understood that the offer provided for the submission of arguments of both sides to a board containing either three or five men. The contractors replied that they have been arbitrating with the union for six months and have reached the end of

Tuesday evening in the assembly hall representatives of the union men and

To Talk on Success. The tenth of the series of lectures on applied psychology, which are being delivered in the ballroom of the Cairo by Dr. C. F. Winbigler, will be held Tuesday at 8 o'clock. The subject will be day at 8 o'clock. The subject "Concentration and Success."

# COCOANUT OIL ON YOUR HAIR .

## Or Anything That Must Be Washed Off.

The scalp is not like other skin on the body that can be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water. The scalp contains a hair germ that must be treated with respect.

All soaps and everything that foams contains alkali and alkali dries up the scalp. Don't use them. Dandruff comes from too dry a scalp. The most sensible way to treat your hair is to thoroughly brush it once a day to keep it clean. Then use Speiser's Scalp Tonic after brushing to give your scalp that life and health which produces glossy hair. Speiser's Scalp Tonic corrects any abnormal condition of the scalp, kills dandruff, and relieves itchy and irritated skins. But even Speiser's Scalp Tonic cannot do the best work against the persistent use of soaps, perfumed oils, cocoanut oil, patented concoctions that must be washed out of the hair to make your heed presentable in public. Speiser's Scalp Tonic is for sale only at O'Donnell's Drug Store at 50 cents and is absolutely guaranteen by them in every respect .-



## "The same funeral for less money" N this, the age of

speculation and keen competition, a business to be sucessful, must offer some distinct advantage. DEAL Funeral Service offers not one, but many advantages. Quality is ever paramount and no expense is spared to make our

service superior in every way. Just one of our many features is the automobile funeral, which experience has demonstrated to be superior to horse-drawn vehicles, covering greater distance in shorter time, though absolutely without unseemly

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